



U.S. Representative

# Trent Franks

AZ, District 2

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## **Congressman Franks Applauds Religious Freedom Provision in Iraqi Supplemental** *Says, “to win the war against terrorism, we must also win the war of ideals.”*

November 6, 2003—Today U.S. Representative Trent Franks joined President Bush as he signed the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense and for the Reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan, 2004 into law. Included in the final bill was a provision calling for religious freedom in the new Iraqi constitution.

The provision reads as follows:

*Provided further, that the Coalition Provisional Authority shall work, in conjunction with relevant Iraqi officials, to ensure that a new Iraqi constitution preserves full rights to religious freedom and tolerance of all faiths.*

**“Misguided religious militancy is at the core of terrorism,” Franks said. “In order to win the war against terrorism, we must win the war of ideals. Constitutionally protected religious freedom has the power to turn hate-based religious fervor into a war of words, rather than a war of violent terrorist acts.”**

Congressman Franks initiated several discussions as a Member of the House Armed Services Committee on the topic of religious freedom, and met with congressional and military leaders, including a discussion with Major General Scales, to urge the inclusion of a religious freedom clause in the new Iraqi constitution.

**“The religious freedom provision will not only help all Iraqis obtain true freedom—the ability to explore, debate, and seek truth—but will also further isolate terrorists and begin to turn bombs into debate.”**

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